

## CHAPTER 278.

[ S. H. B. 143. ]

## STATE ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to education; making provision for state assistance to school districts in providing school plant facilities; prescribing powers and duties of certain state and school district officers in connection therewith; repealing chapter 223, Laws of 1941 (secs. 4932-1 to 4932-5, both incl., Rem. Rev. Stat.); making appropriations and providing for disbursements therefrom; and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature that the following provisions be enacted for the purpose of establishing and providing for the operation of a program of state assistance to school districts in providing school plant facilities.

Declaration  
of intent.

SEC. 2. The State Board of Education shall have the power and it shall be its duty (a) to prescribe rules and regulations governing the administration, control, terms, conditions, and disbursements of grants to school districts to assist them in providing school plant facilities; (b) to approve, whenever the board deems such action advisable, grants to districts that apply for state assistance and in so doing to give due consideration to the findings, reports, and recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction pertaining thereto; (c) to authorize the payment of approved grants by warrant of the State Auditor; and (d) in the event that the amount of state assistance applied for pursuant to the provisions of this act exceeds the funds available for such assistance during any biennium, to make grants on the basis of the urgency of need for school facilities in the districts that apply for assistance and/or to prorate grants among such districts in conformity with procedures and regulations applicable thereto which shall be established by the State Board.

Powers and  
duties of  
State Board  
of Education.

Method of determining amount of state assistance.

Board of the school district to ascertain project cost.

Items of cost.

Review by state board.

Computations by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Percentage of state assistance.

SEC. 3. The amount of state assistance to a school district in financing a school plant project shall be determined in the following manner:

(1) The Board of Directors of the district shall determine the total cost of the proposed project, which cost may include the cost of acquiring and preparing the site, the cost of constructing the building or of acquiring a building and preparing the same for school use, the cost of necessary equipment, taxes chargeable to the project, necessary architect's fees, and a reasonable amount for contingencies and for other necessary incidental expenses: *Provided*, That the total cost of the project shall be subject to review and approval by the State Board of Education.

(2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall (a) ascertain the assessed valuation of the district adjusted to fifty per centum (50%) of the true and fair value in money of the taxable property in the district in accordance with the ratio of assessed valuation to actual valuation fixed by the State Board of Equalization for the county to which the district belongs; and (b) compute the ratio of the aforesaid assessed valuation of the district to the number of educational units approved for allotment to the district of current state school funds: *Provided*, That this number of units may be increased by the aforesaid officer for the use thereof specified in this act upon the finding by said officer that completion of the proposed project will provide facilities for additional units and that such additional units will be needed to serve the school population of the district.

(3) The ratio of the assessed valuation of the district to the number of educational units thereof, computed in the manner hereinabove provided for, shall then be used in determining the percentage of state assistance for the district in accordance with the following table:

Ratio of Assessed Valuation to Number of Educational Units	Percentage of State Assistance
\$28,570 or less to 1.....	75.0%
\$30,000 to 1.....	73.9
\$35,000 to 1.....	70.2
\$40,000 to 1.....	66.7
\$45,000 to 1.....	63.3
\$50,000 to 1.....	60.0
\$55,000 to 1.....	56.9
\$60,000 to 1.....	53.8
\$65,000 to 1.....	50.9
\$70,000 to 1.....	48.1
\$75,000 to 1.....	45.5
\$80,000 to 1.....	42.9
\$85,000 to 1.....	40.4
\$90,000 to 1.....	37.9
\$95,000 to 1.....	35.6
\$100,000 to 1.....	33.3
\$105,000 to 1.....	31.1
\$110,000 to 1.....	29.0
\$115,000 to 1.....	27.0
\$120,000 or over to 1.....	25.0

Table.

(4) The approved cost of the project determined in the manner herein prescribed times the percentage of state assistance derived as provided for herein shall be the amount of state assistance to the district for the financing of the project: *Provided*, That need therefor has been established to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Public Instruction acting in accordance with the provisions of section 4: *Provided further*, That additional state assistance may be allowed if it is found by the Superintendent of Public Instruction that such assistance is necessary in order to meet a school housing emergency resulting from the destruction of a school building by fire, the condemnation of a school building by properly constituted authorities, a sudden and excessive increase in school population, and other conditions similarly emergent in nature.

Amount of state assistance.

Need must be established.

Additional assistance may be allowed under stated conditions.

SEC. 4. All applications by school districts for state assistance in providing school plant facilities shall be made to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in conformity with rules and regulations

Application for state assistance.

Studies and surveys.

which shall be prescribed by the State Board of Education. Studies and surveys shall be conducted by the aforesaid officer for the purpose of securing information relating to (a) the kind and extent of the school plant facilities required and the urgency of need for such facilities in districts that seek state assistance, (b) the ability of such districts to provide capital outlay funds by local effort, (c) the need for improvement of school administrative units and school attendance areas among or within such districts, and (d) any other pertinent matters. Recommendations respecting action on the aforesaid applications shall be submitted to the State Board of Education by the Superintendent of Public Instruction together with such reports of the findings, studies, and surveys made by said officer as may be required by the State Board.

Recommendations to be submitted to State Board.

Manual to be prepared for guidance of local authorities.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Washington State Department of Health, to prepare a manual for the information and guidance of local school district authorities and others responsible for and concerned with the designing, planning, maintenance, and operation of school plant facilities for the common schools. In the preparation of the aforesaid manual due consideration shall be given to the presentation of information regarding (a) the need for cooperative state-local district action in planning school plant facilities arising out of the cooperative plan for financing said facilities provided for in this act; (b) procedures in inaugurating and conducting a school plant planning program for a school district; (c) standards for use in determining the selection and development of school sites and in designing, planning, and constructing school buildings to the end that the health, safety, and educational well being and development of school children will be served; (d) the planning of readily expandible and flexible school buildings to meet the require-

Items for consideration in preparation of manual.

ments of an increasing school population and a constantly changing educational program; (e) an acceptable school building maintenance program and the necessity therefor; (f) the relationship of an efficient school building operations service to the health and educational progress of pupils; and (g) any other matters regarded by the aforesaid officer as pertinent or related to the purposes and requirements of this act.

SEC. 6. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall furnish (a) to school districts seeking state assistance under the provisions of this act consultative and advisory service in connection with the development of school building programs and the planning of school plant facilities for such district, and (b) to the State Board of Education such service as may be required by the Board in the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties vested in and required to be performed by the Board under the provisions of this act.

Superintendent of Public Instruction to advise local authorities and render service to State Board.

SEC. 7. The provisions of this act and all rules and regulations prescribed thereunder respecting the operation of the program of state assistance provided for herein shall be applicable in their entirety to each school plant project for which the Washington State Development Board or the Social Security Committee has made an allotment of funds prior to the effective date of this act. Funds so allotted are hereby recognized as an obligation of the state to the school districts to which the aforesaid allotments have been made and shall be disbursed to said districts out of the appropriation provided for in this act, subject to and in conformity with the provisions of section two (2) of said act.

Certain prior allotments confirmed.

SEC. 8. In so far as is permissible under acts of Congress, funds made available by the Federal government for the purpose of assisting school districts in providing school plant facilities shall be made

Federal funds.

available to such districts in conformity with rules and regulations which the State Board of Education shall establish.

Appropriations.

SEC. 9. To carry out the purposes of this act there are hereby appropriated from the General Fund in the State Treasury the following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary:

FOR THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Grants-in-aid to school districts.....	\$9,831,681.08
(Being the reappropriation of the unexpended balances of allotments made by the Washington State Development Board from the appropriation by chapter 255, Laws of 1945)	
Grants-in-aid to school districts.....	\$1,405,166.63
(Being the reappropriation of the unexpended balances of allotments made by the State Social Security Committee from the appropriations for like purposes by chapter 269, Laws of 1945)	
Grants-in-aid to school districts.....	\$8,763,152.29
Total .....	<u>\$20,000,000.00</u>

Repeal.

SEC. 10. Chapter 223, Laws of 1941 (secs. 4932-1 to 4932-5, both incl., Rem. Rev. Stat.) is hereby repealed, and all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent or in conflict with this act or with any part thereof are hereby repealed in so far as they are inconsistent or in conflict with this act or any part thereof.

Saving clause.

SEC. 11. If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole, or any section, provision, or part thereof, not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

Effective immediately.

SEC. 12. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect on April 1, 1947.

Passed the House March 3, 1947.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1947.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1947.